C.J. York

Personal Statement

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Expository Writing

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I have always been passionate about athletics and the outdoors, which is why I plan to attend Western State College, and study outdoor recreation and education. I also plan to wrestle while I continue my education. I want to major in outdoor recreation and education because I think that it fits my lifestyle, which I want to continue. I love the outdoors and would like to find a career that I would enjoy while helping the wildlife.

Western State is a good choice for me because it has a small town atmosphere, in the center of the great outdoors. There is a lot of hunting and fishing opportunities in any direction from the campus, which is in Gunnison, Colorado. Growing up, my close friends were always alongside me in the outdoors, learning and playing. My dad has also helped me to come to love the outdoors and learn about the wildlife. We have hunted, fished, camped, cleared dead trees, cleaned up a small spring, and cared for our mountain acreage. I have also been involved in farming for the last seven years, so working with soil and land management have made me interested in the environment. At Western State, through the outdoor recreation and education major, they offer courses that will help me learn more about the environment and helping the wildlife. I feel like this major was made for me because it fits my life style. It is definitely something that will help me to build a career.

Another reason why I would like to attend Western is the wrestling program. My whole family has a history of being a wrestling family, so it was natural that I was a wrestler too. My dad started me in wrestling when I was four years old and I have excelled in it every since. I know the head coach at Western State, he coached me when I was on the Colorado National Dual Team and I think that he has the perfect program for me to excel in. He runs the wrestling room in the same way my high school coach, Mike Pallotto, and it is the type of program I was looking for. When I went up there for my official visit, I felt like I was already a part of the team. The wrestlers made me feel like I had already wrestled with them, they already knew who I was and where I came from. It felt good.

In my community, I feel like I am a positive role model. I have been in 4H where I participated in community service, such as helping serve dinner to the Lions Club, cleaning up senior citizens yards, and volunteering to help the Weld County fairgrounds. My community has also supported me when I went to Washington, D.C., and New York City in order to attend a leadership seminar for kids from around the country. Whenever I travel somewhere I am respectful so that I set a good example for my school and community. It is good to hear that Roosevelt High School students are respectful and good company. I have also helped coach the metro-youth wrestling program, whenever possible. Not every high school athlete realizes how much those little guys look up to the high schoolers. Because I have been fairly successful, those kids want to wrestle like me. It’s hard sometimes to realize that as a high school athlete, I need to think about the things I do and how it reflects on myself, but also on the person those little guys think I am. Stopping to talk to them, showing them a wrestling move, or just saying good luck is important. I realized how important that was when I was at the State Wrestling Tournament my freshman year and one of the little guys I had helped coach had brought a sign that said “Good Luck CJ”. It made me realize that I have a responsibility to be respectful of my community and be a good role model.

It would be a great honor to receive a scholarship to help pay for my college. I believe that students who receive scholarships represent the group that gives the scholarship. My whole life I have tried to save money so that I could pay for myself and my needs. I don’t want to leave that burden on my parents to pay for my schooling. I feel that it is the student’s responsibility to get through college and have a real life experience without relying on the parents. It will be hard, and I will not have any extra money, but that is how college life should be.